TWENTY PARAGRAPHS ABOUT THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER

Published by the Secretariat,
P. O. Box 226, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

May 1928

WH12
W78
RF
Pam 43
cage 1

WH
W78
RF
Pam
Cage

Copies of this pamphlet and other publications relating to the World Conference on Faith and Order may be had free on application to the Secretariat, P. O. Box 226, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

The Conference which met at Lausanne, Switzerland, August 3–21, 1927, was the first step in a movement on the part of Christian churches throughout the world to study and solve problems of faith and order which divide Christendom.

What follows is the history of this movement and an account of its present prospects.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER

1. Origin of the undertaking.

Moved by the growing desire on the part of all Christian people that our Lord's disciples may be one, that the world may believe that God has sent Him, the General Convention of the American Episcopal Church in 1910 appointed a Commission to bring about a conference for the consideration of questions touching Faith and Order, and to ask all Christian communions throughout the world which confess our Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour to unite in arranging for and conducting such a conference.

2. Lausanne subjects.

The World Conference on Faith and Order met at Lausanne, Switzerland, August 3–21, 1927. The following subjects were discussed:

I. The Call to Unity.
II. The Church's Message to the World — the Gospel.
III. The Nature of the Church.
IV. The Church's Common Confession of Faith.

V. The Church's Ministry.
VI. The Sacraments.
VII. The Unity of Christendom and the Relation thereto of existing Churches.

3. Lausanne reports.

The Reports of the Lausanne Conference are contained in pamphlet No. 55, which may be had without charge from the Secretariat, P. O. Box 226, Boston, Mass., U.S.A. They are included also in the official Proceedings (entitled "Faith and Order"), edited by the Rev. Canon H. N. Bate, 560 pages, Student Christian Movement, 32 Russell Square, London, W.C.1, 10s. 6d., and Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 244 Madison Avenue, New York City, $2.50. This volume contains an historical introduction, verbatim reports of the principal addresses, and a full account of the discussions. The same publishers have issued also a popular account, "Lausanne, 1927," by the Rev. Canon E. S. Woods, M.A., with a preface by the Archbishop of Canterbury, illustrated, 4s., paper 2s. 6d., in England and $1.25 in America. "Lausanne, the Will to Understand," by the Rev. Edmund D. Soper, D.D., illustrated, $1.50, has been published by Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., New York.

4. The Continuation Committee.

The Lausanne Conference appointed the nucleus of a Continuation Committee, which supplemented its own membership to a total of one hundred. The list appears in pamphlet No. 53, available from the Secretariat. The Continuation Committee is charged to take whatever steps it may think wise and necessary, within the purpose of the Conference on Faith and Order, to advance the cause of Christian unity.

5. The next World Conference.

The Lausanne Conference directed that its reports should be transmitted to all the participating churches, through their official channels, asking the churches to consider the findings and report back to the Continuation Committee the results of their deliberations, in view of which the Continuation Committee shall consider what steps need to be taken for another conference.

6. Prague 1928.

The Continuation Committee will meet in Prague, Czecho-Slovakia, beginning September 6, 1928, to make plans for the immediate future of this work.

7. Spread of the movement.

By correspondence and by deputations, the coöperation of a hundred nation-wide communions in many countries has been secured.

8. The commissions.

Each participating church appoints a commission of whatever numbers and under whatever terms it may desire, to coöperate in the work in its own area and throughout the Christian world.

9. The conference method.

The disagreements between the churches are being studied and discussed not controversially, but in an effort for mutual understanding and appreciation, through "the clear statement and full consideration of those things in which we differ, as well as of those things in which we are at one" (Initiatory Resolution, Cincinnati, 1910).

10. Proposals for Christian unity.

On the part of other agencies, efforts are in progress in many countries to unite two or more churches within the same national boundaries, and on a wider scale much is being accomplished for closer unity among Christians of the same name in different countries

and for the rapprochement of some of the larger communions with one another throughout the world. Information concerning these movements has been gathered for distribution, because of the light and encouragement which they afford to the more fundamental preparations for universal Christian reconciliation.

11. The nature of Christian unity.

The problem of disunion requires for its effectual solution the patient effort, under God's guidance, of all the churches in conference. Adhesion to this movement does not involve the acceptance or negation of any views, by whomsoever expressed, concerning the nature of unity or the mode of its attainment. The divergent views are subject-matter for comparison and study.

12. The Roman Catholic Church and the World Conference.

While expressing cordial interest in the undertaking, as his predecessor Pope Pius X had done, Pope Benedict XV declared to the deputation which visited Rome in 1919 that as the teaching and practice of the Roman Catholic Church with regard to the visible unity of the Church of Christ was well known to everybody, it would not be possible for the Roman Catholic Church to take part in such

a conference. That decision has been reaffirmed.

13. Universal participation.

The requisite mutual understanding on the part of the churches of one another's positions can be attained only as all the autonomous communions coöperate in the work of study and conference. It is earnestly hoped that those churches within the scope of the invitation which have hitherto remained aloof, may soon find it possible to appoint coöperating commissions.

14. Discussion groups.

The Committee urges the formation of local groups, consisting of members of different churches, for the study and discussion of the subjects of the Lausanne Programme. Reports of local conferences should be sent to the Secretariat, P. O. Box 226, Boston, Mass., U.S.A., to be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Committee for information and action.

15. Prayer.

The eight days ending with Pentecost (Whitsunday) of each year have been appointed by the Continuation Committee as a special period of prayer for the guidance of the efforts toward Christian reconciliation.

16. Finances.

Money is needed for printing and postage, the promotion of local conferences, translations, office expenses, and for the larger meetings. It is essential that the undertaking receive continued support from the participating churches and their members.

17. How you can help.

There is need for your prayers that God will further the effort for Christian unity and prepare our hearts and minds for reconciliation. There is need for ardent patient effort on your part to promote study and discussion, in your neighborhood, of the cardinal points on which agreement is necessary before corporate union can be attempted. There is need for your help in spreading knowledge of the movement, and particularly for the names and addresses of your friends, clerical or lay, men or women, who might be interested. It is your business, the concern of everyone who loves our Lord and the Church which is His Body, to take our divisions seriously to heart and unite in the effort to understand and overcome them.

18. Officers.

Chairman of the Continuation Committee: the Rt. Rev. Charles H. Brent, D.D., Bishop of Western New York. *Vice Chairman:* Rev.

Alfred E. Garvie, D.D., London. *Treasurer:* George Zabriskie, D.C.L., 49 Wall Street, New York City. *Secretariat:* P. O. Box 226, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

19. Loan library.

To facilitate study and discussion, a free Loan Library has been established by the Secretariat. A list of the books available will be sent upon request.

20. Publications.

The following publications about the movement and future publications may be had without charge from the Secretariat, P.O. Box 226, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

No. 14. *An Official Statement by the Joint Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.* 1912.

No. 28. *The Object and Method of Conference.* 1915.

No. 29. *A Manual of Prayer for Unity.* 1915. 38 pages. Single copies free. More, five cents each. Three of the prayers, conveniently printed on a card, may be had free.

No. 32. *Report of the Deputation to Europe and the East. Rapport de la Mission envoyée en Europe et dans l'Orient. Rapporto della Deiegazione mandata in Europa e nell'Oriente.* 1919.

No. 33. *Report of the Preliminary Meeting at Geneva, Switzerland, August 12–20, 1920. A Pilgrimage toward Unity.*

No. 39. *Five Series of Questions for Preliminary Discussion* (1920–1925).

No. 43. *Twenty Paragraphs about the World Conference on Faith and Order.* 1922, revised in later editions.

No. 46. *Statements by the Subjects Committee.* 1926.

No. 53. *Records of the Continuation Committee, Lausanne, 1927.*

No. 55. *Reports of the Lausanne Conference, 1927.*

No. 56. *Loan Library List.* 1928.

No. 57. *The Conference at Lausanne,* by Frances Parkinson Keyes. 1928.

Authorized Report

FAITH AND ORDER: THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND
August 3 to 21, 1927

Cloth, demy 8vo, 560 pages.

Student Christian Movement, London, 10s. 6d. net.

Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., New York, $2.50 net.

A comprehensive and thoroughly documented report of the World Conference on Faith and Order.

Address your bookdealer or the World Conference Secretariat, P. O. Box 226, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

French and German editions will be announced in the immediate future.